

**Question for written answer E-000169/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)

Subject: European Commission actions to support small and medium-sized enterprises through the European Competitiveness Fund

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are central to Europe's growth, but their growth potential continues to be limited due to barriers in accessing finance.

Despite some improvement, SMEs find it more difficult than large companies to secure funding for innovation projects, and there are significant disparities in SMEs' access to finance across EU Member States.

Strengthening the competitiveness of SMEs through targeted financial instruments under the European Competitiveness Fund, is crucial to enhance their economic sustainability and growth.

In light of the above, can the Commission say:

1. What measures is it pushing for SMEs to benefit from the European Competitiveness Fund?
2. Is it considering setting a specific target for SMEs or creating dedicated programmes and funding calls specifically for SMEs with a view to improving their access to such programmes and addressing barriers to their participation in them?
3. How will it ensure that funding is geographically balanced so that funding is given to projects across the whole EU?

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